AVATAR

The Last Airbender

Show #104

BOOK ONE: WATER
CHAPTER FOUR: "The Warriors of Kyoshi"

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ACT ONE

INT. ZUKO'S QUARTERS - DAY

ZUKO meditates behind a ROW OF CANDLES. The flames pulse in time with Zuko's breathing, and cast ominous shadows everywhere. There's a soft KNOCK at the door but Zuko ignores it, still in a trance. UNCLE enters and is about to tap Zuko on the shoulder when-

ZUKO
(snapping out of it)
The only reason you should be interrupting me is if you have news about the Avatar.

UNCLE
Well, there is news, Prince Zuko but you might not like it. Don't get too upset...

ZUKO
Uncle, you taught me that keeping a level head is a sign of a great leader. Now, whatever you have to say, I'm sure I can take it.

UNCLE
Okay then. We have no idea where he is.

ZUKO
(furious)
What?!

The candle flames SHOOT high into the air, making a WALL OF FIRE. Uncle instantly starts to PERSPIRE.

UNCLE
You really should open a window in here.

ZUKO
Give me the map!

Uncle produces a MAP from a stack of documents, and gives it to Zuko. With the remaining documents he FANS himself.

UNCLE
There have been multiple sightings of the Avatar, but he's impossible to track down.

CLOSE ON: The map, which traces Aang’s erratic path as he travels from island to island.

ZUKO (O.S.)
How am I going to find him, Uncle? He is clearly a master of evasive maneuvering.

MATCH CUT TO:

EXT. SKY - OVER THE SOUTH SEA - DAY

CLOSE ON: The same map, held by a different pair of hands.

SOKKA (O.S.)
You have no idea where you’re going, do you?

SOKKA puts down the map and we see that our heroes are flying on APPA. AANG drives while KATARA sits next to him, sewing a patch onto some trousers. MOMO is perched atop Aang’s head. His tail keeps slipping down to cover Aang’s eyes, and Aang blows it off like a girl blowing the bangs from her face.

AANG
Well, I know it’s near water...

Sokka looks around at the vast ocean surrounding them.

SOKKA
I guess we’re getting close, then.

AANG
Momo, marbles please.

Momo pulls two marbles from a satchel and hands them to Aang.

AANG
Hey Katara, check out this Airbending trick.

Aang suspends the marbles between his palms, and makes them orbit around each other. Katara smiles but doesn’t look up from her sewing.

KATARA
That’s great, Aang.

Disappointed, Aang puts down the marbles.

AANG
You didn’t even look.

Katara glances up enthusiastically, trying to humor him.

KATARA
(looking)
That’s great!

AANG
But I’m not doing it now.

SOKKA
Stop bugging her, airhead. You need to give girls space when they do their sewing.

KATARA
What does me being a girl have to do with sewing?

SOKKA
Simple. Girls are better at fixing pants than guys. And guys are better at hunting and fighting and stuff like that. It’s just the natural order of things.

KATARA
(cheerful)
All done with your pants. And look what a great job I did!

She hands Sokka a pair of pants, revealing a large hole in the backside.

SOKKA
Wait, I was just kidding! I can’t wear these! Katara, please!

AANG
Relax, Sokka. Where we’re going you won’t need any pants!

He gives a tug on the reigns and Appa plunges out of frame.

EXT. KYOSHI ISLAND - SHORE - A LITTLE LATER

Our heroes dismount in a grassy field by a bay. It’s winter and everything has a light dusting of snow.

SOKKA
We just made a pit stop yesterday. Shouldn’t we get a little more flying done before we camp out?

KATARA
He’s right. At this rate, we won’t get to the North Pole until Spring.

AANG
But Appa’s tired already, aren’t you, boy?

Appa doesn’t answer.

AANG
I said aren’t you, boy?

Aang NUDGES him and the bison BELLOWS.

SOKKA
Yeah, that was real convincing. Still, hard to argue with a 10 ton magical monster.

AANG
Look!

Aang points towards the water, where a massive ELEPHANT KOI leaps out of the freezing water. Katara and Sokka gasp at its size.

AANG
That’s why we’re here. Elephant Koi. And I’m gonna ride them. Katara, you gotta watch me!

Aang throws off his robe and runs into the bay.

AANG
Cold!

Aang swims out and manages to grab onto a Koi. He swings his legs around and in no time is up and RIDING THE FISH LIKE A SURFBOARD. He waves to Katara on the shore and she waves back at him.

KATARA
(CHEERS)

AANG
(EXCITED LAUGHING)

He takes hold of a dorsal fin and makes the fish LEAP out of the water. Several other Koi begin following Aang like dolphins trailing a cruise ship.

ANGLE ON: Katara, Sokka, and Momo who watch from the shore. In the distance Aang is having the ride of his life as he guides the Koi into an even bigger leap.

KATARA
He looks pretty good out there.

SOKKA
Are you kidding? The fish is doing all the work.

Appa BRAYS in the background.

KATARA
(to Appa)
No, Appa! Don't eat that!

She runs off towards Appa.

ANGLE ON: Aang, who's disappointed to see Katara walk away.

AANG
(to himself)
Aw man...

Aang halfheartedly continues to surf.

ANGLE ON: Sokka, who watches as the Koi following Aang SUDDENLY CHANGE DIRECTION and begin swimming away.

SOKKA
There's something in the water!

One of the Koi gets SUCKED UNDERWATER by a mysterious DARK MASS beneath the surface.

MOMO
(PANICKED CRIES)

Katara runs over to see what the commotion is about.

KATARA
What's wrong?

SOKKA
Aang's in trouble! Aang!

KATARA
Get out of there!

Sokka and Katara start screaming and waving at Aang.

SOKKA
Get back here Aang!

KATARA
Come in!

ANGLE ON: Aang, who looks back to shore. From his perspective, it looks like Katara and Sokka are simply waving at him. He smiles and waves back.

Suddenly, the fish he is riding jerks to a stop, knocking Aang off it. As the fish is sucked underwater, a SPIKY BLACK FIN emerges right in front of Aang. His eyes go wide.

Aang AIRBENDS around him so that he can propel himself out of the lake fast. It almost looks as if he's running on water. Despite how fast he's going, the BLACK MASS almost catches him. At the last moment Sokka grabs Aang and yanks him to shore. The black mass curls around and heads off to deeper water.

KATARA
What was that thing?

AANG
I don't know.

Aang begins to put his shirt back on.

SOKKA
Well, let's not stick around to find out. Time to hit the road.

Suddenly, a BLUR around Sokka. Within seconds, he's hog-tied and prone on the ground. Katara and Aang jump up, shocked. Several BLACK-CLAD FIGURES drop from the trees. Before they even know it, they're trapped.

SOKKA
Or we could stay awhile.

EXT. KYOSHI- TOWN SQUARE/MARKETPLACE - LATER

46 An old, tarnished STATUE of a Kabuki-clad female warrior rises above the town. She's in a fighting stance and holds an ORIENTAL FAN in her hands. The camera PANS down and we see that our blindfolded heroes -- and Momo -- are TIED to the statue's base. 46

SOKKA'S P.O.V.: Slivers of light and narrow glimpses of his surroundings where the blindfold is not tight, but mostly darkness.

VOICE (OYAJI, O.S.)
You three have some explaining to do.

FEMALE VOICE (SUKI, O.S.)
And if you don't answer all our questions, we're throwing you back in the water with the Unagi.

SOKKA
Show yourselves, cowards!

As a hand removes Sokka's blindfold, we REVEAL they are surrounded by 8 KYOSHI WARRIORS, an elite team of ALL-FEMALE samurai who wear traditional Kabuki uniforms and face paint. Their leader is SUKI, a tough-talking teenager. OYAJI, the village elder, stands beside her.

A small group of TOWNSFOLK watch the proceedings from several feet away.

SOKKA
Who are you? Where are the men who ambushed us?

SUKI
There were no men, we ambushed you. Now tell us, who are you and what are you doing here?

SOKKA
Wait a second-- there's no way a bunch of girls took us down!

Suki grabs Sokka.

SUKI
A bunch of girls, huh? The Unagi's gonna eat well tonight.

KATARA
No, don't hurt him. He didn't mean it. My brother's just an idiot sometimes.

Suki lets him go.

AANG
It’s my fault. I’m sorry we came here. I wanted to ride the Elephant Koi.

OYAJI
How do we know you’re not Fire Nation spies? Kyoshi’s stayed out of the war so far, and we intend to keep it that way.

AANG
This island is named for Kyoshi? I know Kyoshi!

Aang points back at the statue.

OYAJI
(LAUGHS)
Ha! How could you possibly know her? Avatar Kyoshi was born here four hundred years ago. She’s been dead for centuries.

There’s a long BEAT of silence.

AANG
I know her because I’m the Avatar.

SUKI
That’s impossible. The last Avatar was an Airbender who disappeared a hundred years ago.

AANG
(smiling)
That’s me.

Suki looks confused. Oyaji steps forward. He doesn’t believe them.

OYAJI
Throw the imposter to the Unagi.

The Kyoshi Warriors step forward, threateningly.

KATARA
Aang, do some Airbending!

Aang inhales deeply, and then creates a GUST OF WIND that blows himself into the air with such force that it SNAPS the ropes binding them to the pillar. He then rockets upward and CUTS HIS WRIST BINDS on the statue’s fan.

Now free, he performs several dramatic flips and floats to the ground gently. The crowd is stunned.

CROWD
(GASPS/CHEERS)

OYAJI
It’s true... you are the Avatar!

AANG
Now, check this out.

Aang takes out the marbles from before and makes them dance. The crowd bursts into even wilder applause, and someone FAINTS.

EXT. PIER - LATER

A GIRL talks to a FISHERMAN.

GIRL
Did you hear the news? The Avatar’s on Kyoshi!

The fisherman is loading gear onto a ship, but when he hears this, his eyes WIDEN, and he drops everything with a loud CRASH.

This starts the...

GOSSIP MONTAGE

(NOTE: In this sequence we see how quickly word of the Avatar’s presence spreads. As each person hears the news their eyes widen and they nod with interest.)

In a nearby town, the fisherman carries a load of fish into a butcher shop. As he hands them over, he tells the BUTCHER.

Later, the Butcher tells a SERVANT who is buying fish.

Off the image of the fish, we...

MATCH CUT TO:

INT. ZUKO’S QUARTERS - CONTINUOUS

A sizzling platter of fish, which the servant places on a dinner table in front of Zuko. Zuko looks up at the servant. A smiling Uncle finishes his meal.

ZUKO
The Avatar’s on Kyoshi island?

The servant nods. Zuko stands up to leave.

ZUKO
Uncle, ready the Rhinos. He’s not getting away from me this time.

Uncle looks at Zuko’s dinner.

UNCLE
(RE: the fish)
Are you going to finish that?

Zuko angrily slams his hands down on the table.

ZUKO
(furious)
I was going to save it for later!

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

EXT. KYOSHI ISLAND - ESTABLISHING

Several men can be seen climbing on the Kyoshi statue to scrub it clean.

INT. OYAJI'S HOUSE - LUXURIOUS BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

As honored guests of Oyaji, our heroes are in the lap of luxury. They sit at a large table, piled high with SCRUMPTIOUS DESSERTS. Momo picks through the treats. Through the room's large bay window, we see that even Appa is being pampered as he grazes in the lush garden below.

AANG
Alright, dessert for breakfast! These people sure know how to treat an Avatar.

Aang AIRBENDS a pastry into his mouth.

AANG
(mouth full)
Mmm. Katara, you gotta try these.

KATARA
Well, maybe just a bite.

Katara nibbles at a pastry. It's so good that she starts wolfing them down along with Aang. Sokka, on the other hand, hasn't touched a crumb.

AANG
(to Sokka)
Sokka, what's your problem? Eat!

SOKKA
Not hungry.

AANG
But you're <u>always</u> hungry.

KATARA
He's just upset because a bunch of girls kicked his butt yesterday.

SOKKA
They snuck up on me.

KATARA
Right. And then they kicked your butt.

SOKKA
Sneak attacks don't count.

Sokka storms away from the table in a huff.

SOKKA
(GRUMBLING TO HIMSELF)
Tie me up with ropes...I'll show them a thing or two...

After a beat, he comes back to grab a pastry and then storms off again.

SOKKA
(GRUMBLING TO HIMSELF)
I'm not scared of any girls...who do they think they are anyway...mmmm, this is tasty.

AANG
What's he so angry about? It's great here. They're giving us the royal treatment.

KATARA
Hey, don't get too comfortable. It's risky for us to stay in one place for very long.

AANG
I'm sure we'll be fine. Besides, did you see how happy I'm making this town?
(bragging)
They're even cleaning off that statue in my honor.

KATARA
Well, it's nice to see you excited about being the Avatar. I just hope it doesn't all go to your head.

AANG
Come on, you know me better than that. I'm just a simple monk.

Aang walks over to the window and steps onto the balcony. GIRLS SCREAM from below like crazed fans when they see him.

Aang breaks into a huge smile, and Katara rolls her eyes as we...

CUT TO:

FAN MONTAGE

(NOTE: Set to a bouncy melody, here we see Aang getting treated like a rock star with female fans constantly chasing after him. Think of a Japanese-style “A Hard Day’s Night.”)

The girls chase Aang back and forth over a bridge. Aang stops in the middle of a bridge as the girls come at him from BOTH SIDES. He LEAPS OFF and the girls are confused. The camera PANS down to reveal that he’s holding on, HIDING UNDERNEATH the bridge.

A calligraphy painter paints a picture of one girl standing next to Aang. Another girl gets in the picture and the calligrapher paints her as well. Then another girl and another. Soon, dozens of girls surround Aang, trying to get themselves in the painting. The painter works at a frantic pace to keep up with all the girls.

PAINTER
(ad-libbing, mumbling)
Hmm... painting the Avatar -- well that’s easy enough... oh there’s another one... oh alright, just make an adjustment here and -- uh -- there’s more?

Aang works out in front of the girls in a courtyard. With Momo perched on his back he does PUSH UPS. Aang switches to ONE-HANDED PUSH UPS. Finally Aang does push-ups using only his POWERFUL BREATH.

Katara walks by carrying a basket and rolls her eyes at Aang’s carrying on.

EXT. DOJO - CONTINUOUS

Sokka walks up to the dojo and stops.

SOKKA
(mumbling)
I can’t believe it. I got beat up by a bunch of girls.

He hears FIGHTING SOUNDS coming from inside. He peers in the doorway to see the KYOSHI WARRIORS, led by Suki, as they practice their moves.

SOKKA
Sorry ladies, didn’t mean to interrupt your dance lesson. I was just looking for somewhere to get a little workout.

He flexes his muscles to limber up.

SUKI
Well, you’re in the right place.

INT. DOJO - CONTINUOUS

Sokka enters and nods to the girls.

SUKI
Sorry about yesterday. I didn’t know you were friends with the Avatar...

SOKKA
It’s alright. I mean normally I’d hold a grudge, but seeing as you guys are a bunch of girls, I’ll make an exception.

SUKI
I should hope so. A big strong man like you? We wouldn’t stand a chance.

SOKKA
True. But don’t feel bad. After all, I’m the best warrior in my village.

SUKI
Wow, best warrior, huh? In your whole village? Maybe you’d be kind enough to give us a little demonstration.

SOKKA
Oh well, I mean I...

SUKI
(to the Warriors)
Come on girls, wouldn’t you like him to show us some moves?

The Warriors all voice their approval.

SOKKA
Well, if that's what you want, I'd be happy to. Alright, you stand over there...

He places Suki at arm's length.

SOKKA
Now, this may be a little tough, but try to block me.

He lets a PUNCH fly. Suki easily DUCKS out of the way.

SOKKA
(nervous laughter)
Good. Of course, I was going easy on you...

SUKI
Of course.

SOKKA
Let's see if you can handle this...

He comes at her with a ROUNDHOUSE KICK. Suki steps to the side and TRIPS him.

SOKKA
That does it!

He bolts up and CHARGES at her with all his might. She LEAPS over him and Sokka RUNS INTO THE WALL. While he's dazed, Suki THROWS him to the ground, whips off his belt, and HOG TIES him with it.

SUKI
Anything else you want to teach us?

All the Warriors LAUGH. Sokka's never been so humiliated.

EXT. TOWN SQUARE/MARKETPLACE - LATER

Aang, Momo, and the GROUPIES walk beneath the newly clean and polished STATUE of Kyoshi. Each girl clamors to get next to Aang. KOKO, the most aggressive one, grabs his hand.

AANG
(RE: the statue)
There she is, girls. Me in a past life.

GIRL
You were pretty.

The girls ooh and aah. Through the crowd, he sees Katara filling a BASKET with supplies at one of the shops.

AANG
Excuse me for a second, ladies.

He walks over and taps Katara on the shoulder.

KATARA
Oh good.
(RE: the basket)
Can you help me carry this back to the room? It's a little heavy.

AANG
Actually, I can't right now.

KATARA
What do you mean you can't?

AANG
I promised the girls I'd give 'em a ride on Appa. Why don't you come with us? It'll be fun.

KATARA
Watching you show off for a bunch of girls does <u>not</u> sound like fun.

AANG
Well, neither does carrying your basket.

KATARA
It's not <u>my</u> basket. These supplies are for our trip. I told you we have to leave Kyoshi soon.

AANG
I don't want to leave Kyoshi yet. I can't put my finger on it, but there's something I really like about this place.

He turns and waves over his shoulder to the group of girls, who giggle and wave back.

KOKO
What's taking you so long, Aangy?

KATARA
Aangy?

AANG
(to the girls)
Just a second, Koko!

KATARA
Simple monk, huh? I thought you promised me this Avatar stuff wouldn't go to your head.

AANG
It didn't.
(beat)
You know what I think? You just don't want to come because you're jealous.

KATARA
Jealous?! Of what?

AANG
Jealous that we're having so much fun without you.

KATARA
That's ridiculous!

AANG
It is a little ridiculous, but I understand.

KATARA
(FRUSTRATED GRUNT)

She storms off, lugging the basket by herself.

EXT. DOJO - LATER

Suki is leading the Kyoshi warriors through an advanced fan attack. Sokka enters the dojo and heads straight for Suki.

SOKKA
Uh... hey, Suki.

SUKI
Hoping for another dance lesson?

Sokka stops and looks at her, silently.

SOKKA
No. I-- Well, let me explain...

SUKI
Spit it out! What do you want?

Sokka drops to his knee before her.

SOKKA
I would be honored if you would teach me.

Suki is taken aback.

SUKI
Even if I'm a girl?

SOKKA
I'm sorry if I insulted you earlier. I was wrong.

SUKI
We normally don't teach outsiders, let alone boys.

SOKKA
Please make an exception. I won't let you down.

Suki looks at him for a beat, considering it.

SUKI
Alright, but you have to follow all of our traditions.

SOKKA
Of course.

SUKI
And I mean all of them.

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. DOJO - LATER

Sokka is dressed in FULL KABUKI STYLE (white face paint, etc.). He stands in front of the Kyoshi Warriors.

SOKKA
Do I really have to wear this? It feels a little... girly.

SUKI
It’s a warrior’s uniform. You should be proud. The silk thread symbolizes the brave blood that flows through our veins. The gold insignia represents the honor of the warrior’s heart.

As she goes over the details of the outfit, Sokka straightens up, proudly.

SOKKA
Bravery and honor.

Just then, Aang walks by the door.

AANG
Hey Sokka, nice dress.

Sokka’s pride instantly DEFLATES.

We stay on Aang as he walks to Oyaji’s House and goes inside.

INT. LUXURIOUS BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Katara sits alone practicing her Waterbending skills. She waves her hand over a cup and PULLS A STRAND OF WATER from it like a rope. Aang enters, but Katara doesn’t even look up.

AANG
Katara, remember how the Unagi almost got me yesterday?

KATARA
Yeah.

AANG
Well, I’m gonna go ride it now. It’s gonna be real dangerous.

KATARA
Good for you.

AANG
You’re not going to stop me?

KATARA
Nope. Have fun.

AANG
I will.

KATARA
Great.

AANG
I know it’s great.

KATARA
I’m glad you know.

AANG
I’m glad you’re glad.

KATARA
Good.

AANG
Fine.

Aang stands there awkwardly for a beat, as if waiting for Katara to say something else. Then he steps out.

INT. DOJO - LATER

Sokka, still in a dress, is practicing some basic fan moves. Everyone is gone except for Suki, who is preparing to leave.

SUKI
You’re not going to master it in one day. Even I’m not that good.

SOKKA
I think I’m starting to get it.

Sokka tries a few moves. He’s unwieldy and awkward.

SUKI
It’s not about strength. Our technique is about using your opponent’s force against them.

Suki takes up a defensive posture in front of him.

SUKI
Loosen up. Think of the fan as an extension of your arm. Wait for an opening and then --

Sokka sees his opening on Suki and attacks. It works immediately. Suki drops to the ground. She jumps back up, her pride bruised.

SUKI
I fell on purpose to make you feel better.

Sokka’s face breaks into a wide grin and he tries to stifle a laugh.

SOKKA
I got you. Admit I got you!
(LAUGHS)

Suki tries to look stern but then laughs along with Sokka.

SUKI
(LAUGHS)
Okay, it was a lucky shot. Let’s see if you can do it again.

The two get back to work.

EXT. SHORE - LATER

Aang treads water in the icy cold bay, waiting for The Unagi. The Groupies watch from the shore and look BORED.

KOKO
What’s taking so long?

AANG
I’m sure it’ll be here any second.

They wait a beat and... nothing happens. Aang would have a case of flop sweat if he wasn’t so freezing.

AANG
Uh, what about this?

Aang takes out his MARBLES for the umpteenth time.

GIRL
Not that again. Boring.

KOKO
Where’s the Unagi? It’s getting late.

The girls begin to trickle away.

AANG
Where are you going? Don’t leave.

KOKO
Sorry, Aang. Maybe next time.

Everyone walks off, leaving Aang alone and dejected. Before swimming back, he looks up at the shore and sees Katara. Aang smiles.

AANG
Katara! You showed up.

KATARA
I wanted to make sure you were safe. You really had me worried.

AANG
But back there you acted like you didn't care.

KATARA
I'm sorry.

AANG
Me too. I did let all that attention go to my head. I was being a jerk.

KATARA
(smiling)
Well, get out of the water before you catch a cold, you big jerk.

Aang thinks for a moment and then smiles a WIDE GRIN.

AANG
On my way.

ANGLE ON: Katara, whose eyes start widening in terror.

AANG
(SCREAMS)

Aang slowly realizes he's rising into the air. Below him rises the face of the UNAGI! Aang grabs hold of it's HIDEOUS HEAD, which is filled with sharp, gnashing teeth that begin to snap at AANG as we FADE OUT:

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

EXT. SHORE - CONTINUOUS

Aang sits atop The Unagi. Previously seen only as dark shape beneath the surface, this is the first time the MASSIVE EEL has appeared in all its ferocious glory. Its black skin glistens in the sun and its VICIOUS JAWS drip a noxious foamy substance. The Avatar hangs onto its WHISKERS for dear life.

AANG
(SCREAMS)

The Unagi ROARS, trying to shake him loose.

Katara watches from the shore. Compared to the beast, Aang looks like a mere speck.

KATARA
Hang on, Aang!

The eel BUCKS Aang off and he begins to fall. Flinging its tail out of the water, it SMACKS Aang like a tennis ball. He goes FLYING and lands with a splash, UNCONSCIOUS. The Unagi begins to swim over.

Katara plunges her hands in the water, hoping to redirect the current and bend Aang to safety. She concentrates with all her might and... nothing happens.

The Unagi is even closer to Aang. It rears back, ready to devour him.

Katara DIVES into the freezing water and DRAGS Aang to safety just as The Unagi’s jaws come snapping down.

Furious, the Unagi bolts up, ready to lunge at them both on the shore. It hisses and a JET OF WATER sprays from its mouth. Katara clutches the unconscious Aang in fear.

SUDDENLY, an ear-shattering HORN blasts and ZUKO’S SHIP sails in from the horizon.

KATARA
Zuko!

The Unagi dives beneath the surface and swims away. Thinking quickly, Katara DRAGS Aang’s body in the BUSHES to hide.

EXT. SHORE - MOMENTS LATER

Zuko's ship stops off shore. A ramp from the hull opens and splashes into water REVEALING: ZUKO (wearing his helmet) and three other Firebenders sitting atop 4 large KOMODO RHINOS.

ZUKO
I want the Avatar alive.

Zuko and his men ride the rhinos through the shallow water and onto shore.

ANGLE ON: Katara who watches in fear as the rhinos stampede past their hiding place. She cradles Aang's unconscious body in her lap.

EXT. BUSHES - LATER

Aang lays unconscious on the ground. Katara shakes him.

KATARA
Wake up, Aang!

When there's no response, she waves her hands over his chest and DRAWS THE WATER FROM HIS LUNGS using bending.

Aang sputters awake and starts coughing. He opens his eyes.

AANG
Katara....
(beat)
Don't ride the Unagi. Not fun.

INT. DOJO - LATER

Still in uniform, Sokka spars with Suki. After his shaky start, he seems to be getting the hang of it. He's able to counter her every punch with a swipe of the fan.

SUKI
(impressed)
Not bad.

Suddenly, a RUMBLING shakes the room. Oyaji bursts through the door.

OYAJI
Firebenders have landed on our shores. Girls, come quickly!

SOKKA
Hey, I’m not a-- Ah whatever.

Sokka looks offended for a moment, then shrugs it off.

EXT. TOWN SQUARE/MARKETPLACE - MOMENTS LATER

The town square is deserted. Zuko circles the statue of Kyoshi as he addresses the hiding villagers.

ZUKO
Come on out, Avatar! You can’t hide from me forever!

No response.

ZUKO
(to his men)
Find him.

But before the Firebenders can do anything, they are attacked in a blur. The Kyoshi warriors (and Sokka) jump out of trees and off rooftops, catching Zuko and his men off guard.

Suki knocks a Firebender off his rhino. The rhino runs away, crashing through a small shop. Sokka runs in, just in time to block a bolt of flame coming at her.

SOKKA
I guess training’s over.

EXT. TOWN SQUARE/MARKETPLACE - MOMENTS LATER

Several buildings are on fire. Three of the rhinos run rampant through the town. And even thought the Kyoshi Warriors outnumber the Firebenders, they are losing the fight.

Sokka runs in front of Zuko’s rhino. Zuko charges. Sokka jumps at the rhino and lands on its horn. Zuko punches flame at him. Sokka blocks it with the fan, and then leaps at Zuko. Sokka knocks him out of the saddle and they both land on the ground. Zuko’s helmet is knocked off his head.

A few other Kyoshi Warriors surround Zuko. Zuko tries to fight them off in a quick series of punches and kicks, but there are too many of them. The Warriors and Sokka move in closer and Zuko crouches into a ball as they completely surround him. After a beat the Warriors and Sokka go flying as Zuko throws them all off.

The slam to the ground, the wind knocked out of them. Zuko stands with a new determination.

ZUKO
(calling out)
Nice try, Avatar! But these little girls can’t save you!

SUDDENLY...

AANG
(shouting)
Hey! Over here!

Zuko turns to see Aang standing there with Katara.

ZUKO
Finally.

Zuko runs at Aang, punching flames. Aang uses his staff to ‘propeller’ over Zuko’s head. But just as Aang lands, Zuko sends a flaming kick that knocks Aang’s staff out of his hands. Aang spots two fans on the ground nearby. Zuko attacks again and Aang rolls across the ground, picking up the fans as he avoids the flames.

Zuko moves in closer engaging Aang in a close range fight. Aang deflects and disperses the flames with the fans. He also uses the fans to create huge gusts of wind that blow Zuko back several feet. Aang flies away on his glider.

As Aang flies over the town, he looks around.

AANG’s P.O.V.: In a moments pause, everything SLOWS DOWN. He looks around the battle scene and sees the DEVASTATION the Firebenders are causing. Many of the buildings are on fire. Innocent people flee from the flames. Even the statue of Kyoshi is engulfed in flames.

He lands near Katara who is helping kids into a building.

KATARA
Get inside.

AANG
Look what I brought to this place.

KATARA
It’s not your fault.

AANG
Yes it is. These people got their town destroyed trying to protect me.

KATARA
Then let’s get out of here. Zuko will leave Kyoshi to follow us. I know it feels wrong to run, but I think it’s the only way.

AANG
(resigned)
I’ll call Appa.

EXT. TOWN SQUARE/MARKETPLACE - LATER

As the Kyoshi Warriors hold back the Firebenders and Zuko, Aang (holding his staff again), Katara, and Momo mount Appa and prepare for takeoff. Sokka and Suki deflect the Firebender’s shots as they walk backwards towards Appa.

SUKI
There’s no time to say goodbye.

SOKKA
What about “I’m sorry?”

SUKI
For what?

SOKKA
I treated you like a girl when I should have treated you like a warrior.

SUKI
I am a warrior...

She leans in and gives him a KISS on the cheek.

SUKI
But I’m a girl, too.

She smiles and Sokka blushes. A burst of flame flies at them and Suki deflects it.

SUKI
Now, get out of here. We’ll hold them off.

Sokka leaves Suki’s side and runs up Appa’s tail.

AANG
Appa, Yip yip!

Appa takes off.

ZUKO
Back to the ship! Don’t lose sight of them!

Zuko and the Firebenders all pile onto one rhino and gallop away from the burning village.

EXT. ABOVE KYOSHI ISLAND - MOMENTS LATER

Aang looks down on the burning town with concern.

KATARA
I know it’s hard, but you did the right thing. Zuko would have destroyed the whole place if we stayed.

Aang looks back sadly.

KATARA
They’re going to be okay, Aang.

SUDDENLY, he DIVES off Appa’s side.

KATARA
What are you doing?!

EXT. KYOSHI ISLAND - SHORE - CONTINUOUS

Aang does a spectacular DIVE and plunges into the bay. Reflections of the burning town can be seen on it’s surface.

IN AN EXPLOSION OF WATER, AANG EMERGES RIDING THE UNAGI!

Aang tugs on the eel’s whiskers and it SPRAYS A MASSIVE JET OF WATER onto the buildings, extinguishing the flames.

The water also drenches Zuko and his men. The Unagi submerges, leaving Aang floating in the water. Zuko tries to take a shot at him, but he can only produce a pathetic puff of smoke.

Appa swoops in over the water, grabs Aang in his paws, and flies over the town.

From his balcony, Oyaji watches.

OYAJI
Thank you, Avatar.

EXT. SKY - MOMENTS LATER

A soaking wet Aang climbs into the saddle, out of breath. He looks nervously at Katara, afraid she is going to chastise him.

AANG
I know, I know. That was stupid and dangerous.

Katara gives Aang a fierce hug, and KISSES HIM ON THE FOREHEAD.

KATARA
(smiling proudly)
Yes. It was.

Aang’s face breaks into a confused grin as Appa flies through the air and we FADE OUT:

THE END